

United States Senate

April 24, 2019

Michael Welch, Paralympic Program Specialist
Office and National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events, Suite 912 D US Department of
Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Ave NW Washington, DC 20420

Dear Mr. Welch:

I write in support of Horses Spirits Healing, Inc.'s (HSH) grant application under the Adaptive Sports Program for Disabled Veterans and Disabled Members of the Armed Forces Program.

According to the US census, over 22,000 veterans live in Yellowstone County. The VA has been active in expanding its capabilities there, most notably by building the Billings VA Clinic which provides a range of specialty medical services including behavioral and mental health.

As part of its vision for an education, research and therapy center, the owners of the Intermountain Equestrian Center (IEC) have developed a world-class facility providing arenas, offices, stalls and other facilities used by Rocky Mountain College (RMC) in its successful Equestrian Studies program, including a Therapeutic Instruction degree track.

They have been developing and conducting programs to help improve the physical and mental health of our veterans. In 2014, the owners of IEC formed Horses Spirits Healing, Inc. for this purpose and have built the relationships with medical, educational and research organizations necessary to cause the vision to become a reality. In 2017, HRH served 103 veterans in 730 equine sessions; a remarkable achievement.

This grant would permit HSH to continue pursuit of its goal of supporting veterans and their families in their road to health and integration into their communities. Too many of our nations veterans have returned home from war with seen and unseen wounds, and we owe it to them to provide every avenue possible for their treatment and rehabilitation. This grant will allow us to live up to the promises we have made to the brave men and women who have served.

Thank you for your attention to this application. If I can provide any additional information, do not hesitate to contact me. Please inform my office of the eventual decision on this application.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator